

**Excerpt from a Conversation Between General Don Flickinger to
East Germans who were at the recent Space Symposium, Milan
18-21 April 1962**

25X1X2

Professors [REDACTED] were quite friendly and communicative spending considerable time with delegates from the free countries there represented. According to them, they were the only delegates from Soviet Bloc countries who experienced no difficulty in obtaining their visas and were not particularly restricted as to duration of their stay in Italy. [REDACTED] spoke English quite fluently and did most of the speaking for her husband who had only a limited English vocabulary. 25X1X2

Their combined work these past years has been primarily in the field of basic protein chemistry, particularly studying the denaturation processes occurring within the cell with subsequent attempts to identify specific roles for specific protein molecules as they are involved in intra cellular catabolism and anabolism. Recently their investigations have tended to follow to a greater extent the physical and mathematical approach rather than the more traditional biochemical approaches.

It was interesting to hear them discuss the scientific abstracting service which is provided them from Moscow. Both of them stated that there was such a tremendous volume of abstracts ([REDACTED] indicated with both hands a stack of abstracts a foot high) which are sent to them each month as being pertinent to their fields of interest. He further stated that it was absolutely impossible for him to even cursorily go through the material furnished each month from the Institute for Scientific Documentation in Moscow. [REDACTED] elucidated 25X1X2 considerably upon this general topic of scientific information exchange in the following manner. She believes that the Soviet method of abstracting and disseminating scientific information has been "overdone" and that before long they will be inundated as with such a flood of material as will be impractical for the working scientist to use. Interestingly enough she blames this situation on the one factor of their method which many people in the United States have held out as an

example which we should attempt to follow--namely, the more widespread use of working scientists and engineers to do the abstracting services. Noting my surprised look at this statement, she went on to say that a scientist abstracting in his own general field of interest is prone to abstract entirely too much of the article instead of simply identifying the principle direction of the work as would be done by a professional abstracter. She feels that before long they will have to change their system if it is going to provide any real service to the laboratory scientists.

Asked if they had any difficulty in obtaining reprints and journals from the West, she replied that up until about three months ago, they received journals, reprints and other communications quite expeditiously from America, but since that time this steady inflow had been markedly reduced and she indicated they could not quite understand the reason for the change and were not too happy with the current state of affairs. I asked if she had received any reports on the excellent work being done on proteins at the Carnegie Institute and she said no, they had not and they understood that there was a considerable amount of interesting work in proteins going on there. Any help I could give them on obtaining some of these reports would be greatly appreciated by them, she stated and in response to my query as to whether they would get the reports if I sent them direct, she replied, "Well, I should hope so".